Author's response to reviews

Title: Indivo: a personally controlled health record for health information exchange and communication

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Author's response to reviews: see over
August 22, 2007

Iratxe Puebla  
Senior Assistant Editor  
BMC-series journals

Re: MS: 3385582131513898

Dear Ms. Puebla,

Please find attached a description of revisions to the manuscript based on your and the reviewer’s comments. Thank you so much for your consideration of this manuscript.

Sincerely,

Kenneth D. Mandl, MD, MPH

Kenneth D. Mandl, MD, MPH
We have revised and improved the abstract.

We have changed the reference in-text citation style to square brackets.

On page 2, last paragraph, we have added the statement “PCHRs are complements to, rather than replacements for existing healthcare information management systems” in response to the reviewers request for clarification of the relationship of indivo to legacy systems.

On page 3 in the first paragraph, we have added the statement, “The Indivo software allows institutions to create and administer a PCHR infrastructure that exceeds the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules” in response to the reviewers query as to whether Indivo was HIPAA compliant.

On page 4, in the first paragraph, we have added the statement, “The document model was described in Simons et al.” in response to the reviewer’s request for clarification information flows and document types. Also we have revised the previous sentence to read, “A document within a PCHR may represent an individual laboratory result, a clinical encounter, allergy, medication, annotation, survey result, or any other discrete piece of relevant healthcare information.”

On page 12 in the first paragraph, we have added the statement "Vetting the authenticity of the agent is important since PCHR users will be granting the subscription agent permissions to add documents to their record. Those documents will be tracked by the Indivo system and identified as originating from the healthcare data source associated with the subscription agent." in response to the reviewer’s query about proving the integrity of stored documents.